

HOW TO AVOID QRM ESPECIALLY ON 50 & 144 MHZ.

Many contestants have complained about strong analog stations hogging a calling frequency and burying weaker stations underneath. The following remedies are suggested.

1. Give a CQ contest call on 50.200 or 144.200 MHz, and ask stations to listen for you on a frequency higher up the band. Other stations who heard your call will follow you. This is how it's done during HF DX contests.
2. Club or field stations may select a spot frequency and also call from there. It would not take stations long to discover who is operating and where.
3. Stations must learn to tune and listen around the channel and not only to one frequency. Local stations should spread out to avoid QRM to each other. This will give everyone a fair chance to work distant stations.

CONTESTANTS

All ZU/ZR/ZS amateurs may participate as well as amateurs from the six neighbouring states i.e. Namibia (V5), Botswana (A2), Zimbabwe (Z2), Mozambique (9), Lesotho (7P), and Swaziland (3DA), and only contacts with these states will count.

BASE STATION

A base station is the normal home or fixed station. It may be operated by one or more amateurs as long as they use their own call signs.

FIELD STATION

A field station is a temporary station set up in a caravan, tent or motor vehicle and may erect any type of antenna system. It may be operated by one or more amateurs but they must use their own call signs.

CLUB or MULTI-OPERATOR STATION

A Club or Multi-Op station forms the hub of activity during a contest and could work all five bands at the same time. A club or multi-op team may operate either from a fixed location or a field station as desired but a single call sign must be used by all the multi-operators.

LIMITED CATEGORY

This category is limited to a 4 hour continuous period during each session, and may be scheduled during any part of a session operating from any fixed position, field station or a stationary mobile.

REPORTS & SCORING

A valid contact consists of an exchange of call signs, signal reports and location such as the 6 digit Maidenhead Locator or co-ordinates. Stations in all four categories claim one point per kilometre, but points may be claimed for only one contact for the same station on the same band during a session. The number of grid squares worked on a band multiplies the scores on that band.

LOG SHEETS

Separate log sheets are required for each band worked on digital or analogue. The top of each log sheet must indicate BAND, CATEGORY, NAME, CALL SIGN and POSTAL ADDRESS as well as the LOCATION of the station. Log sheets must reflect DATE, TIME, FREQUENCY, CALL SIGN of station worked, SIGNAL REPORTS given and received, transmission MODE and LOCATOR of station worked. All entries must be submitted to PEARS before the end of February 2009 and their decision will be final. The postal and e-mail

addresses are given below. No late submissions will be accepted. Results will be posted on the PEARS website by 30 April 2009.

AWARDS

PEARS will present certificates to (1) the station which achieves the longest distance on digital, (2) the longest distance on analogue, (3) the national winner and runner-up as well as (4) the divisional winner in each of the three categories and five bands, except the limited category which has only an overall winner and runner-up per band.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society, P. O. Box 10402, Linton Grange 6015, RSA, or e-mail contest@pears.ham-radio-op.net or telephone Eric Hosten ZS2ECH on cell 072 8414 693.